tion as to be hardly recognizable. Leaped from Platform

and Were Mangled short time, and all its equipment was not yet in place. This was unfortunately the case with a fire escape in the rear of the building. The small iron balconies to which | devise was to hurriedly lash some planks tothe iron ladder was to be attached were up, but the ladder had not yet been constructed. When the panic was at its highest a framework. Before this could be done a the doorway upon the little iron platform, alley, and by the time the bridge was that they were thirty to fifty feet from the ground, a fire behind and no method of escape in front. Those who reached the it is believed by Mr. Elliott, made their way platform first endeavored to hold their footing and to keep back the crowd that pressed upon them from the rear. The ef- Eddie Foy, the Comedian, fort was utterly useless, and in a few moments the iron ledges were jammed with crowds of women, who screamed, fought and tore at each other like maniaes. This lasted but a brief interval, and the rush from the interior of the building became so violent that many of them were crowded off and fell to the granite-paved alley be-

FAIR, WARMER TO-DAY; RAIN OR SNOW FRIDAY



WASHINGTON, Dec. 30 .- Forecast for

Thursday and Friday: Indiana-Fair and warmer on Thursday. Friday Cloudy; probably rain or snow; fresh brisk south winds. Ohio-Fair and warmer on Thursday, except snow in northeast portion. Friday, snow in north, rain or snow in south portion; fresh to brisk south winds. Kentucky-Fair and warmer on Thursday. Friday increasing cloudiness, probably followed by rain or snow. Lower Michigan-Snow on Thursday and probably on Friday; warmer on Thursday in southeast portion; fresh to brisk south

Illinois-Fair on Thursday; warmer in north and central portions. Friday snow or rain; fresh to brisk south winds. Oklahoma, Indian Territory and Arkansas-Fair on Thursday and Friday. Wisconsin-Partly cloudy and warmer on Thursday. Friday snow; variable winds. Montana-Fair on Thursday; colder in northeast portion. Friday probably fair. North Dakota-Snow on Thursday; in front." warmer in south and east portions. Friday fair and colder.

South Dakota-Fair on Thursday; warm- FORMAL STATEMENT er; snow and colder at night. Minnesota-Increasing cloudiness and warmer on Thursday; snow at night or Friday; colder Friday in west portion; winds becoming southeast. Iowa-Partly cloudy and warmer on Thursday. Rain or snow at night or on

Nebraska-Partly cloudy on Thursday; cept tair in southwest portion; colder on Kansas-Fair on Thursday; rain or snow

at night or on Friday. Local Observations on Wednesday. Bar. Ther. R.H. Wind, Weather. Pre. 2 94 S'west. Clear, 0.00 82 S'west. Clear. 0.00 Maximum temperature, 20; minimum tem-

Comparative statement of mean temperature and total precipitation on Dec. 30:

Departure for mouth .....-270 -2.47 Departure since Jan. 1.....-318 -10.40 W. T. BLYTHE, Section Director,

> Yesterday's Temperatures. 7 a. m. Max. 7 p. m.

Amarillo, Tex. ..... Buffalo, N. ...... 15 Chattanooga, Tenn. ..... 32 Cincinnati, O. ..... Concordia, Kan. ...... 20 Dodge City, Kan..... 16 El Paso, Tex..... Galveston, Tex. .. Grand Junction, Col..... Grand Rapids, Mich..... Havre, Mont. ..... Huron, S. D...... Helena, Mont. ..... 3 Jacksonville, Fla. ...... Kansas City, Mo..... 16 Lander, Wyo. Little Rock, Ark..... Louisville, Ky., ..... 10 Marquette, Mich. ..... 8 Memphis, Tenn. .... 30
Modena, Utah .... 31
Montgomery, Ala. ... 32 Nashville, Tenn. ...... 18 New Orleans, La. ..... 44 New York, N. Y. ..... 16 Norfolk, Va. ... North Platte, Neb. .... 12 Palestine, Tex. .......... Parkersburg, W. Va. ... Philadelphia, Pa. ...... 22 Pittsburg, Pa. ..... Pueblo, Col. ..... Qu'Appelle, Assin. ..... 14 Rapid City, S. D. ..... 26 St. Louis, Mo. .... St. Paul, Minn. Salt Lake City, Utah .... 16 San Antonio, Tex. ..... 42 Santa Fe, N. Mex. ... 24 Shreveport, La. ...... 32 Springfield, Ill. ..... Springfield, Mo. ..... 24 Valentine, Neb. Washington, D. C. ..... 24 Wichita, Kan. ..... 26

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color and appearance of the clothing on fracturing legs and arms, and two were man, whose vision was better trained in humanity and carried out to the street."

the lower limbs, and this is in such a condipicked up at this point with fractured such emergencies, seized his companion by William R. Heyer, an usber in the fi picked up at this point with fractured skulls, having been killed instantly. George H. Elliott, secretary of the Oden Gas Company, was in a building directly op- | faces! posite from the theater across this alley, and, noticing smoke, went down to ascertain the cause. When he reached the street the women were already dropping into the alley, and Elliott immediately rushed for a ladder in an effort to save as many as came through the cloud of smoke that possible. No ladder was available, and the only method of assistance they were able to gether and throw them across to the afstructions to place the: a firmly on the iron constructed but few remained to take advantage of it. However, about two dozen, across this narrow causeway.

The members of the theatrical company, being on the first floor, had comparatively little difficulty in reaching the street, although their situation was for a moment highly critical because of the speed with which the flames swept through the mass of scenery in the files and on the stage. Eddie Foy, the principal comedian in the play, was one of the last to escape, by getting out through a rear door after assisting the He went into the Sherman House in his stage costume and with his face covered with grease paint in order to secure surgisustained. In describing the commencement of the fire, Foy attributed the extent of the catastrophe to the failure of fireproof curtains to work properly. Because of this, he said, the flames readily obtained were by the draft carrying with it gas as well as fire, swept up to the two balconies where the loss of life was greatest.

Great Draft Caused the

flames were started in the rear of the stage. possible for fire to spread so quickly. When | cord-wood. t first started I went to the footlights, and, to prevent alarming the audience, said that there was a slight blaze and that it would be best for all to leave quietly. Then I stepped back and called for the asbestos curtain to be lowered. This, when about half way down, refused to go farther, and swept the flames out into the auditorium, and I knew the theater was doomed. I hurried back to the stage and aided in getting the women members of the company into the alley. Some of them were in their dressing rooms, and were almost overcome by smoke before they could get down to pany, although it caused such a horrible the people hurt in the fire. catastrophe in the front of the house. After | Doctors and trained nurses were on the alley. As it was, the draft carried all the gas and fire out beneath the curtain, and vation was the death of so many people

BY THEATER OWNERS

CHICAGO, Dec. 31.-Will J. Davis and Harry J. Powers, proprietors of the Iroquois Theater, made the following statement at 1:30 o'clock this (Thursday) morn-

"So far as we have been able to ascertain, the cause of the most unfortunate | tomobile was finally turned away. accident of the fire in the Iroquois, it apnoticed to have ignited from some cause It was detected before it had reached an appreciable flame, and the city fireman who is detailed and constantly on duty when the theater is opened, noticed it simultaneously with the electrician. The fireman, pulled a tube of 'Killfire,' of which there 'Killfire' had been effective to have extinguished the flame at once, but for some cause inherent in the tube of 'Killfire' it then ordered down the asbestos curtain and the fireman threw the contents of another tube of 'Killfire' upon the blaze thus caused excited the alarm of the audience, who immediately started for the exits, of which there are twenty-five, of unusual width, all opening out and ready to the hand of any one reaching them. The draft thus caused, it is believed, had, before the curtain could be entirely lowered, produced a bellying of the asbestos curtain, causing tion caused thereby was so strong that they reach the exits, and tripped and fell over each other and fell and blocked the way. The audience was promptly admonished and importuned by persons employed on the stage and in the auditorium to be calm and avoid any rush; that the exits and facilities for emptying the theater were ample to enable them all to get out without con-

fusion. "No expense or precaution was omitted to make the theater as fire proof as it could be made, there being nothing combustible in the construction of the house, except the trimmings and furnishings of the stage and auditorium. In the building of the theater than any theater in American.' The above statement was not issued by Messrs, Powers and Davis until 1:30 o'clock on the morning of Dec. 31.

CHICAGO APPALLED BY GREAT LOSS OF LIFE

CHICAGO, Dec. 30 .- Rarely in the history of Chicago has its people been so stirred as by the calamity of to-day. It is next to the Chicago fire, the greatest catastrophe that has ever occurred here, and the for a brief period to appall the business section of the city. The news spread with great rapidity and in a short time hundreds of men, women and children were rushing toward the theater.

curred stands midway between State and mass of flames I turned my attention to liceman within call of the department was I stood at the stairway leading to the immediately hurried to the spot and men dressing rooms, where the chorus people placed in lines at the end of the block, al- were located and kept some from going lowing nobody to enter Randolph street up to get their street clothes. As the rom either Dearborn or State, it was others came down I forced them to leave ound for a time almost impossible to hold | the building. I don't know how they ever back the frenzied crowd that pressed for- got out all those girls and men, who came ward, many of them having friends or crowding down the stairs for the stage relatives in the theater and anxious to entrance was blocked by a mass of learn something of them. The conduct of dames. the police was beyond all praise. The officers held their ground firmly and gently pushed back all those who sought to gain an entrance to the theater, although in some instances frantic men, anxious to look for their loved ones, actually beat the

officers with their fists in their rage at being prevented. In spite of the efforts of the police, however, a large number of people succeeded in breaking through their lines and entering the theater, and in many cases did heroic work in rescuing the injured and carrying out the dead. Among these was Alderman William H. Thompson, who, unaided, carried to the street the bodies of eight women. The first newspaper man upon the smoke when the firemen first arrived that

such emergencies, seized his companion by the arm, exclaimining: "Good God, man, don't walk on their

and the street. The two men immediately my balcony. hurried to the floor below and informed its entire stock of lanterns at the service Burned, but Not Seriously of the department. Over 200 lights were Stage Electrician One of quickly carried into the building and the work of rescue commenced.

Bodies Quickly Carried Into a Restaurant and counters, one woman even being placed, for lack of a better spot, on top of a cigar case. Because of the tremendous throng which surrounded the block in which the access to the main part of the theater and theater building stood it was not possible for the police to carry the dead and woundto await for ambulances at the theater. Although all the patrol wagons and every ambulance owned by the city was pressed into service, they were utterly inadequate Flames to Spread Rapidly to carry away the dead, and in a short "The fire began in the middle of the sec- long piled two and three high on the sideond act," said Mr. Foy. "An electric wire | walk in front of the theater. It was found broke, was grounded, and from this the necessary in order to convey the bodies rapidly to the morgue and to the various undertaking establishments to impress The stage is unusually wide, and there was | trucks into the service, and in these, upon so great a draft the flames spread rapidly. | the costly blankets furnished by the dry goods stores in the vicinity, and covered with the same material, the dead were the rear of the house. I never believed it hauled away practically like so much

> Merchants Near the Theater Rose to the Emergency

theater rose to the emergency in splendid thus an additional draft was created. This | fashion. Marshall Field & Co., Mandel Brothers, Schlessinger & Meyer, Carson, ton threatened to brain him with it unless D. A. Stratton, of Alpena, Mich., was in Pirie, Scott & Co., and other large dry goods stores sent wagonload after wagonload of blankets, rolls of linen and packages of cotton to be used in binding up the the stage and to the doors. The simple | wounds of the injured and to cover the dead. fact that the curtain did not descend en- The drug stores furnished their stock to tirely was what saved the lives of the com- any body that asked for it in the name of

the curtain had refused to descend there ground by the score within half an hour came the explosion of the gas tanks, and after the extent of the calamity was with the curtain down all the fire and gas known, and every wounded person who was dressing room, where they were constantly would have been confined behind the rear carried from the building received prompt wall of the theater and the fire-proof cur- medical aid. A number of doctors waited tain in front. Under these circumstances at the entrance to the theater with it would not have been possible for a sin- stethoscopes in hand and as soon as a gle member of the company to escape alive | body which looked as though it might posunless he or she had been standing imme- sess life was carried out it was at once diately in front of the door leading into the examined, and, if dead, placed on the pile lying on the sidewalk. The others were at | had twelve children in two boxes in there | once placed in ambulances and whirled the company was saved, although their sal- away to hospitals or to the offices of physicians in the immediate neighborhood. One large truck, ordinarily used for conveying freight to depots, was so heavily loaded with dead in front of the theater that the two large horses attached to it were unable to start, and the police were compelled to assist by tugging at the wheels. When the need for trucks to remove the dead was more pressing a huge electric delivery wagon owned by Montgomery, Ward & Co. was hailed by the police, The automobile headed for the scene, but at State street encountered so great a press of people that it could not get through. The chauffeur clanged his gong repeatedly, but the crowd refused to part and the au-

## pears that one of the scenic draperles was WHAT THEATER MEN SAY; CALCIUM LIGHT BURST

CHICAGO, Dec. 30.-While the police and firemen were carrying out the dead and injured Will J. Davis, one of the proprietors who was only a few feet away, immediately of the theater, was indefatigable in his efforts to alleviate all suffering and to assist | turned away. was no need as far as I know of a single would have been more than enough if the life being lost. There were over forty ex- ers theaters, which are owned by the proproof and if somebody had not screamed had no effect. The fireman and electrician 'fire' I think that all, as far as those killed ance. in the panic are concerned, could have reached the street in safety. And of those BISHOP FALLOWS SAYS with no better result. The commotion who were suffocated by the gas nearly all would have been out by the time the explosion occurred if order had been preserved in making their exits. As far as we have learned everybody on the first floor except three escaped, although some susa pressure on guide against the solid brick | The great loss of life was in the first and wall of the proscenium, thus stopping its | second balconies. These combined will seat descent. Every effort was made by those | 900 persons. The sale of seats had been on the stage to pull it down, but the draft | good, but was not up to the capacity, and | darkness that was intensified by the volwas so great, it seemed, that the pressure | as far as I can estimate the balconies beagainst the proscenium wall and the fric-tion caused thereby was so strong that they The top balcony, where the cheapest seats to the top gallery and assisted in carry could not be overcome. The audience be- | were located, was the most crowded and it | ing out the victims. came panic-stricken in their efforts to is here that the crowd found most difficulty in struggling toward the exits.'

Lime Light Apparatus Is

Said to Have Exploded

they saw fiames in a narrow streak creeping along the wall near the upper part of William C. Sellers, the house fireman,

who was severely burned in trying to lower the asbestos curtain describes the scene upon the stage and the cause of fire as follows: "I was standing in the wings when I heard the explosion and then immediately afterward a cry of fire from the stage and all over the theater. Looking up I saw that the curtain was ablaze and at once I ran for the fire curtain. We got it half way down when the wind rushing in from the broken skylights bellied it out so that it caught and we could not budge it. With the stage hands I climbed to where it was suspended and together we tried to push it down. Our efforts were futile and seeing that no human power could move that fire curtain and that the stage was a warning the actors and trying to save those who were in trouble. The women were frantic and the men not much better.

Fire Alarm Turned in

by Ticket Taker Leavitt E. Leavitt, the ticket-taker at the theater, was at the main entrance, and, realizing the gravity of the situation at a glance, he burst open the three double doors and then ran to turn in the fire alarm. "I heard the cry and saw the mob rushing for the door,"

ever tell his friends who he was is the low. Others leaped from the platform, tion. As they reached the doorway the fire- and I was caught in the mass of struggling all we could to lessen their grief, but such lesse, to my mind, were less excited than William R. Heyer, an usher in the first | time." The two men tried vainly to get through | came so sudden that I barely had time to old. The party was in the first balcony the door, which was jammed with dead open the fire exit before the auditorium was and when the first sparks were seen rose women piled higher than either of their in flames. I tried to quiet the crowd, but it to depart. All of them had reached the throw a stitch of clothing over their shoulheads. All the lights in the theater were | was no use. The women screamed and the first floor when the panic came and the ders.' necessarily out and the only illumination | men fought to get to the doors, trampling on | rush for the doors commenced. Although | About a score of people in the second hung between the interior of the theater been quiet everybody could have got out of were knocked down and sustained severe them through the roof and carried them to Chicago te-night. So far as known

Chief Musham, of the fire department, that | ing that the fire of to-day was the secrightened women on the platforms, with in- the dead bodies were piled high in the bal- ond which had occurred in the theater tically torn from his head. cony and prompt assistance must be ren- since its opening, something over a month dered if any of them were to be saved. The ago. Three weeks ago last Sunday, they taurant, which adjoins the theater on the fallen there from the balcony above. great number of women ran for these fire fearful loss of time ensued; the women chief at once called upon all his men in declared, fire broke out in the dressing escapes, only to find, as they emerged from | were being pushed every instant into the | the vicinity to abandon work on the fire | rooms underneath the stage, but it was exand come at once to the rescue. The build- tinguished without coming to the knowling was so dark and the smoke so thick | edge of the audience. Slight damage was that it was found impossible to accomplish | done to several dressing rooms, and a numanything until lights had been secured. ber of costumes were destroyed before the Word was at once sent to the Orr & Lock- flames were extinguished. The fire departett Hardware Company, two doors east of | ment was not called and no report of the the theater, and that firm at once placed | blaze was made to the city authorities.

John E. Farrell, the stage electrician, was | Trampled by the Crowd, one of the heroes of the fire. He was the first to discover the blaze when it was a So rapidly were the bodies brought down little tongue of flame running up the canthat for over an hour there were two vas border of the curtain. He climbed a the theater with her two children, five and streams of men passing in and out of the ladder twenty feet above the stage and seven years old. When the fire appeared she doorway, the one carrying bodies, the other | sought to extinguish it with his hand. He | left her seat on the first floor and, grasping composed of men returning to get more. | beat helplessly until his hands were badly | the two little girls by the hands, she started women members of the company to safety. They were carried into Thompson's res- burned and the fire had run up the canvas for the door. She had just reached the entaurant, which adjoins the theater on the border into the flies. Seizing a hand gren- trance when the crowd rushed upon her, east, where all the available space was ade he dashed it at the fire and the falling bore her down and trampled her into uncal attendance for some burns which he had given by the proprietor. The dead and fluid nearly blinded him. With the cry of consciousness. She knew nothing more unwounded were placed upon chairs, tables | "save yourselves," he fell to the floor and | til she was revived and in the Samaritan then running to the rear door of the Hospital, when she at once begged for her theater he threw it open, calling to the children. While she was asking for them members of the company to rush into the one of them was brought to the hospital alley. In the work of assisting the women | seriously burned. The other escaped unined any distance, and they were compelled he was aided by Stage Manager Cummings. Jured. As the frightened actors and actresses injured from the theater to the hospital, rushed in a body off the stage, some of said that many of the deaths were caused them attempted to leap into the orchestra by falling from the balcony steps in the pit, which would in all probability have efforts of the crowd to reach the exit. "The led to their death. Cummings ran in front | first evidence of the fire," he said, "was a time there was a line of corpses fifty feet of them. "I'll kill the first one that tries thin volume of smoke which floated from to pass me," he shouted, and the members | the stage. This was followed by a sheet of of the company shrank back. With the flame which mounted to the celling and enaid of Eddie Foy and Farrell the members | veloped the hangings about the front of of the company were hustled from the rear | the stage. The people in the parquette of the theater into the alley. crazed by the panic overhead, were fifty | number of spectators arose to their feet supernumeraries and members of the bal- and shouted for order and did everything

Will J. Davis Collapses Under Stress of Disaster

the Iroquois, collapsed to-night under the worry and distress occasioned by the catastrophe. After the fire he and Mr. Powers also escaped, both of them being burned besieged by people who were frantically seeking for information of their relatives. The climax came with Mr. Davis when he was approached by Mr. Geo. G. Sanborn, a prominent business man, who said: "I "My God, this is what kills a man," said Mr. Davis, as he turned away, and the next

was assisted to a carriage and driven to Later is was ascertained that Mr. Santaken the entire party in safety from the The scene around the office of the managers was pathetic in the extreme. It was a constant succession of tragic episodes.

One woman with hair flying and streaming eyes fought desperately with the police officers, who would have prevented her from seeing the managers, and slipped past them. Falling at the feet of the first man in the room, she said: "Please, please, tell me if my son Harold "I cannot tell you where he is," was the

"My God, man, that's my only boy, she moaned," and then, rising, made her way "What do you want?" asked a policeman in front of the office of C. E. Elliott, as he tried to force his way in. "My wife, that's all," he sobbed, and

Two of the down-town theaters to-night losed their doors to patrons as a result of the fire. These were the Illinois and Powprietors of the ill-fated Iroquois. All other theaters remained open as usual, and there was no perceptible falling off in the attend-

IT WAS TERRIBLE SCENE CHICAGO, Dec. 30 .- Among the hundreds

"God forbid that I ever again see such a heartrendering sight," said the bishop to-night. "I have been in wars and upon the bloody field of battle, but in all my experiences I have never seen anything half It was declared to-night by the manage- so grewsome as the sight that met my ment of the theater, that the fire was not eyes when, with the aid of a tiny lantern, caused by the grounding of an electric I was finally able to penetrate the inky wire or to any defect in the equipment of darkness of that balcony. There was a pile the theater. It started, they claim, by the of twisted and bleeding bodies ten feet bursting of a calcium light apparatus. The high with blackened faces and remnants of concussion was so great that it blew out charred clothing clinging to them. Some we sacrificed more space to aisles and exits the skylights over the stage and audi- were alive and moaning in their agony. torium. This statement of the theater Others, and oh, by far the greater, number management is contradicted by many peo- were dead. I assisted in carrying many of ple who were in the theater and who de- the injured down and ministered to them the best I could.' It was the presence of the children, hun-

the efforts of their frantic mothers im- friends. pelled by their first thought to seek the safety of their young that caused much of the pandemonium. Alexander H. Revell. who had sent his little daughter Margaret, with a little friend, in charge of a maid to see the performance, five minutes after the fire started heard of it in his store and hastily calling a carriage drove madly to the burning theater. By the greatest good fortune one of the first persons he encountered was the hysterical maid, who informed him that the two children had been saved without injury. Mr. Revell then hastened into the theater and participated

"I worked in the upper balconies," said "The sight of those poor women and their little children with clinched fists raised as though trying to beat their way to safety and stricken down in the very act is too horrible to attempt to describe. But I thought of how my own little one had been saved and I forgot my horror and did all I could to save those who were not so fortunate. I assisted the police and firemen in carrying down more than twen-

Heaps of Mangled and Charred Human Beings

Sheriff Barrett and a score of deputies from his office assisted in carrying out the the mob of frantic relatives who thronged the strets in front of the burning building, yet discovered the blaze. vainly seeking information that no one could give them. "I have never before witof mangled and charred humanity. We

scenes can never be forgotten in a lifebalcony, said to-night: "My balcony was | Mrs. F. A. Morgan, of Chicago, was in sisted many of the chorus girls from the girl lost her two companions and succeeded crowded, and there were a number of people | the theater with her sister, Miss Marcella | theater and some of them were only in gaining the outside. Both boys perished, standing when the fire broke out. It all Warren, of Detroit, and her son, five years | partially attired. Two of the young Pottlitzer's body was found and

were congregated. C. Little, the head cook, second balcony above. to take hold of her and she fell to the alley, | nition. the Heroes of the Fire fracturing her skull, dying instantly.

but Escaped with Life Mrs. William Mueller, of Chicago, was in

started for the door in an orderly manner. Penned below the stage, running about, The people on the stage, the ushers and a let. They were shut off from exit by the in their power to prevent a panic. Then crowds wedged in the stage stairway. somebody screamed and everybody appar-They were saved by James J. Hamilton, a ently lost all control of themselves and ran the building, broke off the cover with his | minds. Men sprang to the stairs apparentbare fists and stood guard until all had ly regardless of the women and children left the basement. Through this narrow who were going down at the time. Many hole he lifted men and women clad in their | women and children were knocked down in tights, and one "supe" who insisted upon | they not been pushed to one side by men | carrying his spear with him until Hamil- who thought of nothing but themselves." the theater with his fifteen-year-old daughter Mattie, and his niece, Louise Busshway, of Chicago. In the rush for the door he became separated from both girls and attempted to fight his way back to find them, out was buffeted aside by the rush of maddened people. He was knocked down,

> PITIFUL SCENES AT THE MORGUES LAST NIGHT

places. Not for an hour after being carried

out did he learn that the two children had

badly, his daughter having inhaled flame

and being unable to speak.

CHICAGO, Dec. 36 .- All night long griefstricken friends and relatives of missing persons besieged the morgues, where the dead had been carried awaiting identification. Hundreds of men and women waited instant would have fallen to the floor. He in long lines for hours to finally lose their patience and demand admittance. For every single person who was allowed to pled under foot and none of them arose born's son Harold, nineteen years old, had enter the death rooms a score of persons

After waiting for several hours in front of Jordan & Co.'s undertaking estaablishmourners, consisting of over 1,000 persons, became impatient and it took the united efforts of twenty policemen, who were guarding the place, to quiet the dissatisfied ones. The aisles between the piles of dead in the place were already filled with persons and it was impossible for those outside to enter until those already inside eft to make room. The policemen in charge of the line of waiting persons, which extended west in Madison street for several blocks, tried to explain the situation, but the excited fathers and husbands and mothers who were anxious about their relatives and friends refused to be paci-

dressed in black broke from the lines, after having waited all evening for a chance to enter the morgue. She rushed to the door of the undertaking establishment, and as she was pushed back by the policemen exclaimed: "My boy is in there. You have no right to keep me from him. I must have him, and will not go home without seeing Then the woman rushed toward the door

but before she could reach it fell fainting | selves.' into the arms of a big policeman. At Rolston's morgue, 22 Adams street, where nearly 250 bodies lay awaiting identification, the scenes were unusually draof persons who rushed to the rescue when | matic. There were thousands of people in the crowd in front of the place, and it was with the greatest difficulty that the police tained bruises and other minor injuries. was Bishop Fallows, who happened to be were able to control the situation, so anxicus were the grief-stricken people to gain admittance to ascertain if their loved ones Overlock, of Virginia, a young girl who had fallen victims to the awful disaster. At dozens of other places in the city ume of smoke that filled the auditorium where the dead had been carried the same Never was there a busier night in Chicago after carrying her to the door, where he than this one. All night long hundreds of people were going between the police sta- placed her on her feet, the two became tion and the hospitals and the morgue, first | separated, and Thomas is among the missto one, then to the other, then back again, | ing seeking news of missing friends and rela- Shortly after the alarm of fire had been tives, and trying to identify the dead. At | turned in, Miss Irene Humphrey, a member the central police station, within one and of the Blue Beard company, escaped from

one-half squares from the theater, a dozen the theater in her stage costume. A cousin names and descriptions of missing people. | the theater by another direction at the name of a friend or relative. The hospitals | still prostrated, neither of them received sewere all night long besieged by callers and rious injuries. The women are from New eager questioners over the telephone. In York and had not been separated since the spite of all this the work of identification | company left that city. went on but slowly, and at 2 o'clock this ! morning approximately one-fifth of the bodies lying in the rooms of down-town un- death were little Joe Graham, twelve years dreds of whom were in the audience, and dertakers had been recognized by their old, and Dorothy Bour, a companion of the

> CHORUS GIRLS AIDED BY HERBERT CAWTHORN

chorus girls from the stage exits in the panic. After being driven from the building | if they had not been so scared. When we he made two attempts to enter his dressing room, but both times was driven back by the firemen, who feared he would be over-

come by smoke. Mr. Cawthorn said:

"I was in a position to see the origin of the fire, and I feel positive that it was an electric calcium light that started the blaze. The calcium lights were being used to illuminate the stage in the latter part of the second act, when the song, 'In the Pale Moonlight,' was being sung. I was standing behind a wing on the left side of the stage, when my attention was attracted by a peculiar sputtering of one of the calciums. Above the stage, perhaps twelve feet higher than the top of the curtain exposed to the audience, was a swinging platform from which twelve calciums were operated. It appeared to me that one of the calciums ad flared up and the sparks ignited the lint on the curtain. Instantly I turned my injured people and in keeping order among attention toward the stage, and saw that the song was being carried out and that many of the actors and actresses had not

"Just then the fireman who is kept be hind the scene rushed up with some kind of a patent fire extinguisher. Instead of nessed such a scene in all my life," said the stream from the apparatus striking the Sheriff Barrett. "On all sides were heaps flames, it went almost in the opposite diat last they grew so numerous that we to use the chemicals the flames suddenly were unable to keep count of them. Such | swooped down and out. Eddie Foy shoute a dreadful sight I trust I will never be something about the asbestos curtain and ground also carried out many of the dead of the frenzied audience reached the out- called to witness again. Crazed men the fire. Young Pottlitzer was visiting some men the fire was visiting some men the fire was visiting some men to the fire wa and injured. The building was so full of | side door. I tried to calm them, but in less | fought to get within the corridors thinking | stage hands ran to his assistance. The than a minute I saw it was no use, and I to find their loved ones among the pile of asbestos curtain refused to work and then the full extent of the catastrophe was not | burst open the doors. Then I ran for the fire | corpses that filled every available foot of | the stage hands and players began to hurimmediately grasped until a fireman and alarm box. Coming back I assisted in the space. Strong men with tear-blinded eyes ry from the theater. In my opinion, the a newspaper man crawled up the stairway | rescue as much as I could, but was run | stood on the sidewalk and called loudly the | stage fireman might have averted the leading to the balcony, holding handker- over with the terrified crowd that pushed | names of their loved ones as though there | whole affair if he had not become so exchiefs over their mouths to avoid suffoca- and shoved each other out of the doorway, was a chance of the dead hearing. We did cited. The chorus girls and everybody

he. There were at least 500 persons behind

women and children. If they would have they hastened as rapidly as possible they balcony were saved by firemen, who took wife having died but recently. He went bruises. A man seized the little boy by down ladders in the rear of the building. Stage hands of the theater said this even- the head in attempting to throw him from Two bodies tightly locked in each other's his path and the litle boy's scalp was prac- arms, young ladies, apparently about twenty-five years of age, were found in one end Waiters and cooks from Thompson's res- of the orchestra pit. They must have east, rescued fiften people by raising a lad- | The body of a dark-haired girl, apparentder from the roof of a shed to a window in | ly twelve years of age, was found impaled the rear of the building around which a on the iron railing of the first balcony. mass of screaming women and children | She evidently was thrown over from the

> mounted to the top of the ladder and told | With all of its clothing torn from it but a them to jump into his arms. Fifteen pair of baby shoes, the body of a child women and children did this and were about one year old was found in a far passed by Little down to other men on the corner of the second balcony. It had eviadder below. One woman made an attempt | dently been knocked from its mother's to jump into his arms before he was ready arms and was trampled beyond all recog-

> > MARVELOUS ESCAPE

OF A THEATER PARTY

CHICAGO, Dec. 30 .- One of the marvelous escapes was that made by the members of had any word been received from them. a theater party given by Miss Charlotte E. Plamondon, of Chicago. The party was made up of a number of prominent society people of this city, Miss Elsie Elmore, of Astoria, Ore., Miss Mary Peters, of Columbus, O., and Miss Josephine Eddy, of Evanston, Ill. Miss Plamondon was the first of her party to notice the fire, which crept | the afternoon performance of her beard." It is feared that he, too, is dead, along the top of the drop curtain. She as nothing has been heard from him and

called the attention of other members of her | efforts to locate him have failed. party to the blaze, and they all watched it. Miss Plamondon said: "I could see lit- | PATHETIC INCIDENT: tle girls and boys in the orchestra chairs pointing upward to the slowly moving line of flame. One of the stage hands, wearing overalls, appeared before the footlights and requested the audience to keep their seats, as there was no danger. Eddie Foy then hurried to the front of the stage and commanded the people to remain calm, saying that if they would keep their seats the danger would be averted. The curtain, however, still burned, pieces of the smoldering cloth falling into the orchestra pit. An effort was made by the stage hands to arrange the curtain so that the blazing fragments would not drop into the pit. looked over the faces of the audience," said trunk handler, attached to the theater, who for the doors. I was knocked down twice Miss Plamondon, "and remarked how many children were present. I could see their | stacked, when his attention was attracted faces filled with interest and their eyes wide open as they watched the burning curtain. Just then the people in the balcony rose to their feet and crowded forward to obtain a stage costumes, wearing helmets and this way who might have been saved had better view of the fire. Eddie Foy rushed to the center of the stage again and waved his arms in a gesture, meaning for the people to be seated. At that instant a woman in the rear of the place screamed 'Fire!' and the entire audience of women and children rose to their feet filled with uncontrollable terror. In another instant there was a confused roar made by the people as they rushed madly from the impending "On the stage the chorus girls who had

aroused my admiration because of their exhibition of presence of mind, turned to flee, but many of them were overcome before they could take a step. Several of them fell to the floor and I saw the men in the cast and the stage hands carry them off the stage. Miss Elcie Elmore was the first to leave our box. The upholstering of the railing was then on fire and we were compelled to brush fragments of the burning curtain from our clothing in order to prevent them catching fire. Then there came a great roar, and a great draft of air and the flames shot out over the parquette of the theater until it seemed to me as though they must reach the very front walls of the building. There were but few men in the audience, but I saw several of them pulling and pushing women and children aside. They fought like ma-

niacs to reach the exit. "I saw a number of little children tramagain. In the balcony the scene was beyond my power to describe. There was a big crush of human beings, each one apparently fighting everybody else. The balcony was so steep that many fell before they had left the first four rows of seats. The exits to the fire escapes were choked and those in the rear rushed with all the strength they possessed upon those who were nearer the door-

"It was almost incredible, the speed with which the flames ran through the scenery, and although I was but a second after Miss Elmore in jumping over the railing of our box to the aisle in front, the stage was a mass of flames. As I started up the aisle, a man rushed into me and knocked me down. I was so stricken that I grew weak and sank into one of the orchestra chairs, and after that I hardly remember anything. In some way I reached the main entrance where men were kicking against the doors and shattering the glass and panels in their attempt to afford a larger space for the exit of the people. Many fell as they reached the doors where a few steps more would have carried them to fresh air and safety. As I look at it now I must have been walk-

ing on prostrate bodies as I struggled through the opening. "All of our party escaped in about the same manner as I did, but all of them suffered so terribly in the matter of clothing that the first thing they did was to rush again, not knowing what she was doing, to the stores to buy wraps to cover them-

VIRGINIA GIRL SAFE,

HER ESCORT MISSING was visiting friends in the city. Miss Overlock's companion, Remington Thomas, made a heroic effort to escape with her, but,

policemen were kept busy all night taking of Miss Humphrey, Helen Wall, ran from in the squadroom of the station the lists same time. Each of the women thought chamber. An iron railing which separatinjured received from hospitals and from | that her cousin had been killed in the fire. olice stations were read to the crowd. The | and frantically cried to be permitted to rebrongs were silent while the names were turn to the theater. Before either could ead, except for an occasional outbreak of learn of the others safety, both had become obbing as some one recognized in the de- temporarily deranged. They were taken to scription of severe injury or death the the Saratoga Hotel and although both are

Two of the first persons that succeeded in getting out of the tomb of fire and same age, from Woodlawn Park, Youthful grit saved them. They were seated in the parquet ten rows back from the stage. "When Eddie Foy stepped to the front of the stage and told us to keep still we decided we would get out despite his assurances that there was no danger," said the boy to-night. "Four women fainted near CHICAGO, Dec. 30.-Herbert Cawthorn, a me and nearly all the others seemed dazed and just sat still. We got up and kicked one of the doors open. I think a lot of the others in the theater could have come, too, got out we waited until they brought a dead man out and then we started for by burning fragments from above."

The fire separated two little girls who had been playmates for life. One of them es- | FINEST PLAYHOUSE; caped unhurt and ran to her father's office near-by, where an hour later she accompanied him to the morgue where her little playmate had been taken. The one who was saved was the daughter of Harry Manufacturing Company, while her companion, who was knocked down and tramcompany. The girls had been at the theater together and when the cry of fire sounded struggied with the crowd until a man whom the Parker girl describes as weighlost in the crowd and killed.

"JACK" POTTLITZER, A LAFAYETTE BOY, LOST

LAFAYETTE, Ind., Dec. 30 .- At midnight to-night it was learned definitely that Jack Pottlitzer, the ten-year-old son of Max Pottof Lafayette, met his death in the Chicago

relatives in Chicago and went to the theater with two cousins, Jessie and Walthe scenes when the fire started. I as- | ter Birringer, of Chicago. In the rush the women in particular were naked from the | soon identified by relatives. There was not waist up. They had absolutely no time to a mark on his body, so he probably succumbed to suffocation. Young Birringer's body has not been identified. Mr. Pottlitzer is nearly crazed over the news, his young Pottlitzer is the only Lafayette person who perished in the fire.

## THREE LAPORTE WOMEN BELIEVED TO BE DEAD

Special to the Indianapolis Journal. CHICAGO, Dec. 30 .- It is feared that Mrs. Charles F. Lefmann, Mrs. Ella Wachs and Miss Mae Dickhut, of Laporte, Ind., who attended the matinee performance at the Iroquois this afternoon, are dead. The three women composed a theater party that came here yesterday and as tickets had been secured in advance for them by a Chicago friend, they are known to have been present. Persons on the scene endeavored to find them, but had been unable to do so up to 11 o'clock to-night, nor Mrs. Lefmann is the wife of Alderman C. F. Lefmann, a prominent and wealthy business man and Mexican gold mine owner. Mrs. Wachs is the daughter of Chris Flentye, a Lake Shore engineer and Miss Dickhut is head trimmer in a millinery establishment there.

Fred Bennethum, a young business man came to Chicago this morning to attend the afternoon performance of "Mr. Blue-

WIFE AMONG DEAD

CHICAGO, Dec. 30 .- One of the pathetic incidents which occurred in the identifying of the dead to-night was when Patrick O'Donnell, a wealthy brewer of this city. found the body of his wife among the hundred or more corpses in an undertaking establishment. Mr. O'Donnell had started down town as soon as he learned of the fire, theater. He was walking through the aisles of tables on which bodies were by a woman's hand, which extended from beneath a sheet which covered a plie of bodies. "It's my wife, my poor wife!" he moaned, and, without lifting the sheet, he knelt and kissed the hand, on one of the fingers of which he recognized a ring he had given his wife as a Christmas present. "I know the ring," he said between his sobs; "my wife is dead, and I prayed God on the way down town that she might be spared." The body of Mrs. O'Donnell was removed from the pile of dead and taken to her home.

One of the narrow escapes in the first rush for the open air was that of Winnie Gallagher, a girl eleven years of age. The child who was with her mother in the third row from the stage, was separated in the mad rush for safety. She climbed to the top of the seat in which she had been sitting, from one chair to another, finally reaching the door. There she was nearly crushed in the crowd, and all her clothing was stripped from her. She was carried to the police station in an overcoat, where she found her mother, who had also escaped uninjured.

MANAGER W. A. BRADY SAYS IT WAS AWFUL

CHICAGO, Dec. 30.-William A. Brady, the well-known New York theatrical man-

"I had just got in from New York and reached the theater not more than fifteen minutes before the fire broke out. It was one of the biggest audiences that I ever saw, and I was unable to secure a seat. I was standing near the door, when, looking up, I saw that the calcium light apparatus was out of order. Some one came on the stage and assured the audience that there was no danger and for them to keep their seats. Then a ballet dancer came on and performed, but in another second the whole calcony seemed to be in flames. Everyone downstairs rushed for the doors, and, as far as I know, no one in that part of the house was killed. It was upstairs, where the smoke, blown by the strong draught that came in through the skylights, where death was dealt out to hundreds before they realized what had happened. Such a panic as followed the first cry of fire I have never seen in all my life. The stairsways and exits became jammed with fighting humanity in a moment, and the shricks and moans of the poor people cut off from all escape was the most awful thing imaginable. It With two companions, I tried to reach the balcony, but we were driven back by the suffocating smoke and were unable to accomplish anything until the firemen had extinguished the flames. Hundreds of people joined the rescuers, and from one of the entrances to the balcony we removed 150 bodies by actual count. They were jammed and twisted together in all shapes. Many of the women and children had been stripped almost naked in their mad efforts to escape from that living tomb. If the audience had not become so panic-stricken, I'm sure that there would not have been such a terible loss of life, as all the bodies I helped to remove from the place were those of persons who had been killed in the

RESULT OF CORONER'S HASTY INVESTIGATION .

CHICAGO, Dec. 30 .- Coroner Treager made as complete an inspection of the theater as is possible in the condition in which it is to-night. He said: "If the asbestos curtain had been in working order I believe that the fire might have been prevented from spreading into the audience ed each row of seats from the adjoining tier prevented, I think, many from reaching places of safety. This circumstance, combined with the steep incline, made it difficult for so large an audience to escape without great delay. Now this," said the coroner, "is a modern fireproof theater, furnished with all the appliances and equipment that are suposed to prevent just such a catastrophe as has now occurred. The plush on the seats of the first balcony was charred, but still visible. This does not look to me as though everybody would have got out of the theater alive when you take into account the speed with which the flames had spread. My inspection showed that the seats on the main floor were burned but little. The balconies had evidently shielded to a large extent the seats in the parquette. The path of the flames was evident. The stage and the ceiling of the theater was blistered and blackened. There was practically no damage to the furniture on the first floor. The boxes on the second tier were entirely destroved by fire, while those on the first floor were burned only in spots, evidently

COST HALF A MILLION

CHICAGO, Dec. 30 .- The Iroquois Theater Parker, superintendent of the Plantation | was completed less than two months ago pled on and killed, was the daughter of the finest playhouse in Chicago. It was W. R. Davis, head foreman of the same opened to the public on the night of Nov. 23 with "Mr. Bluebeard." The style of they began to make their way toward the the structure architecturally is French exits on the main floor. Hand in hand they renaissance, which has a strong suggestion ing 200 pounds dashed between them. This | pacity of 1,724 chairs, with plenty of good separated them and the Harris girl was standing room on each floor. The balcony had seatings for 475 persons. The records of the city building department show that the theater was complete in every detailand that it was absolutely fireproof, all requirements of the law having been com-W. A. Merriman, Western manager of the George H. Fuller Company, the concern

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